

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-19.(canceled)

20.(currently amended) Method ~~according claim 13~~, of preparing, by free radical emulsion polymerization, of ultrafine hydrophobic latex polymer or copolymer particles in order to polymerize or copolymerize monomers or monomer mixtures respectively, of at least one purified compound as a chain transfer agent (CTA), wherein said latex particles have an average particle size of less than 90 nm, being at least 10 % lower than if prepared in the absence of said CTA, wherein said polymerization is conducted in a water-based reaction in the presence of a chain transfer agent and of a surfactant, wherein said surfactant is present in a concentration versus said monomer or monomer mixture of from 5 up to 25 % by weight for a non-ionic surfactant or from 0.05 up to 10 % by weight for an ionic surfactant wherein said CTA is a water-soluble oligomer having surface-active graft copolymers with a hydrophilic graft and a hydrophobic main chain.

21.(currently amended) Method according to claim ~~14~~ 20, wherein said surfactant is present in a concentration below twice its critical micelle concentration and wherein said CTA is a water-soluble oligomer having surface-active graft copolymers with a hydrophilic graft and a hydrophobic main chain.

22.(currently amended) Method according to claim ~~15~~ 20, wherein said CTA is selected from the group consisting of alpha-methyl vinyl compounds or alpha-ethyl vinyl compounds and wherein said CTA is a water-soluble oligomer having surface-active graft copolymers with a hydrophilic graft and a hydrophobic main chain.

23.(currently amended) Method according to claim ~~17~~ 20, wherein said CTA is selected from the group consisting of dimers or cross-dimers of -methylstyrene, methyl methacrylate, hydroxy ethylacrylate, benzyl methacrylate, allyl methacrylate, methacrylonitrile, glycidyl methacrylate, methacrylic acid, tert.-butyl methacrylate, isocyanatoethyl methacrylate, meta-isopropenyl-, -dimethyl isocyanate (TMI), omega-sulfoxyalkyl methacrylates and alkali salts thereof and wherein said CTA is a water-soluble oligomer having surface-active graft copolymers with a hydrophilic graft and a hydrophobic main chain.

24-27.(canceled)

28.(currently amended) Method according to claim ~~13~~ 20, wherein said latex particles have an average particle size of less than 90 nm, being at least 20 % lower than if prepared in the absence of said CTA.

29-33.(canceled)

34.(currently amended) Method according to claim ~~28~~ 20, wherein said latex particles have an average particle size of from 10 to 90 nm.

35-42.(canceled)